

County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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September 15, 2004

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Fifth District

To:

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Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON D.C. UPDATE

Congress reconvened last week, facing a long list of unfinished legislative business. Most notably, with the exception of the Defense appropriations bill (P.L. 108-287), the other 12 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 appropriations bills have not been enacted. In addition, legislation is still pending to reauthorize a number of major programs of County interest, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century Act (TEA-21), and the Workforce Investment Act.

Given the politically charged atmosphere on Capitol Hill, it is uncertain how much legislative work will be accomplished prior to the November elections. Congress has set October 8 as its tentative date for adjournment, but the Congressional Republican leadership indicates that, at this point, there is a high likelihood that both houses will have to return for a lame duck session sometime in November. Decisions have yet to be made on whether Congress will try to pass a massive omnibus appropriations bill containing all remaining appropriations bills that have not been enacted or whether to adopt a bill funding programs at FFY 2004 levels until after the new 109th Congress convenes next year.

FFY 2005 Appropriations Bills

Labor/Health and Human Services (HHS)/Education: Last week, the House adopted H.R. 5006, the FFY 2005 Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill, by a vote of 388 to 13. Before passing the bill, the House rejected, on a voice vote, an amendment by Representative Tancredo (R-CO) to prohibit the use of funds to pay the salaries and

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expenses of personnel to implement Section 1011 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, which appropriated \$250 million a year for FFYs 2005 through 2008 to reimburse the cost of emergency medical services provided to undocumented immigrants. If enacted, this amendment, in effect, would block implementation of this new reimbursement program. As seen in the attached table (Attachment I), under H.R. 5006, most programs of County interest will be funded in FFY 2005 at FFY 2004 levels or will receive small increases. The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark up its version of the bill on September 15, 2004.

Homeland Security: The Senate is attempting to complete action on its version of the FFY 2005 Homeland Security appropriations bill (H.R. 4567) before it recesses later this week for Rosh Hashanah. The bill also may become a vehicle next week for an emergency supplemental spending bill to provide disaster relief in response to the damage caused by recent hurricanes that have hit Florida. The House passed H.R. 4567 on June 18, 2004.

Attached is a table (Attachment II) that compares funding levels under the House-passed bill and the Senate version approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 17, 2004. As seen on the chart, both versions would significantly reduce State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) funding, but increase funding for high-threat urban area grants, rail and transit security, and port security. In effect, this would target a greater share of total funding to areas based on threat levels, critical assets, and relative need. This is because SHSG, but not other grant funds, are allocated to states using an allocation formula that provides small population states with the most funding per capita. Under the current SHSG formula, California, the most populous state, receives the least funding per capita.

On the Senate floor, numerous amendments have been introduced that would increase homeland security grant funding for state and local governments. To date, only one of these floor amendments has passed -- an amendment by Senator Cochran (R-MS) and Senator Byrd (D-WV) to add \$36 million for emergency management performance grants and \$128 million for rail and transit security grants. Other amendments that were defeated include an amendment by Senator Boxer (D-CA) to add \$70 million for first responder interoperable communication systems, an amendment by Senator Murray (D-WA) to add \$300 million for port security funding, and an amendment by Senator Byrd (D-WV) to add \$665 million in homeland security grant funding, including an increase of \$440 million for high threat urban areas.

Other Issues

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization: With the latest short-term reauthorization of TANF expiring September 30, 2004, House Majority Leader Delay (R-TX) indicated last week that a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill likely would have to wait until next year. The Senate has not adopted its TANF

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reauthorization bill, and Senate Majority Leader Frist (R-TN) has not scheduled floor time for its consideration. Therefore, it is expected that another temporary extension will be enacted to fund TANF at the current level through part of next year.

Homeland Security Grant: House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Cox (R-CA) continues to pursue House floor action of his bill (H.R. 3266), which would allocate homeland security grant funding based on threats and critical assets rather than on the current population-based formula which allocates a greater per capita share of funding to small population states. Given partisan and regional differences over the bill and disagreements over which House committees have jurisdiction over homeland security grants, it remains doubtful that the House will act on the Cox bill this year. Last year, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee reported a bill, S. 1245 (Collins, R-ME), which generally would maintain the current allocation formula favoring small population states. That bill has not been scheduled for Senate floor action.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK MAL:MT:hg

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist

FUNDING LEVELS FOR PROGRAMS OF COUNTY INTEREST IN FFY 2005 LABOR/HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES/EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 5006) (in millions)

ROGRAMS		President 2005	House 2005	
CDC Homeland Security Activities 1	\$1,507	\$1,510	\$1,638	
HRSA Homeland Security Activities ²	543	504	543	
Ryan White AIDS Emergency Relief Grants	615	615	615	
Ryan White Comprehensive Care	1,106	1,121	1,141	
Ryan White AIDS Total	2,065	2,080	2,100	
Community Health Centers	1,617	1,836	1,836	
Substance Abuse Block Grant	1,700	1,753	1,710	
Mental Health Block Grant	413	414	414	
Children's Mental Health	102	106	106	
Maternal and Child Health Grant	730	730	730	
Family Planning	278	278	278	
Community Access Program	84	10	0	
Preventive Health Block Grant	133	133	110	
Social Services Block Grant	1,700	1,700	1,700	
Community Services Block Grant	642	495	628	
Child Welfare Services	289	292	292	
Independent Living 3	185	200	190	
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	404	505	410	
Child Care Development Block Grant	2,087	2,100	2,100	
HIV AIDS, STD, and TB Prevention	1,142	1,143	1,149	
Refugee Assistance	448	473	491	
Administration on Aging (AoA) Total	1,374	1,377	1,403	
AoA Family Caregivers	153	156	157	
AoA Nutrition	714	719	730	
AoA Supportive Services	354	357	357	
Dislocated Workers	1,454	1,383	1,479	
Adult Training	899	900	900	
Youth Training	995	1,001	1,001	
Title V Older Americans Employment	439	440	440	

¹ Includes funding for bioterrorism grants to state and local governments.

² Includes funding for hospital preparedness grants to state and local governments.

Includes funding for Independent Living Training Voucher Grants.

FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 4567)¹ (in millions)

PROGRAMS	2004	President 2005	House 2005	Senate 2005
State Homeland Security Grants	\$1,690	\$700	\$1,250	\$940
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Grants	497	500	500	400
High-Threat Urban Area Grants ²	671	1200	900	875
Rail and Transit Security ^{2, 3}	50	200	100	150
Port Security	124	46	125	150
Emergency Management Performance Grants	179	170	170	180
Firefighter Assistance Grants	746	500	600	700

As passed by the House on 6/18/04 and by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 6/17/04.

These programs are part of the President's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

For FFY 2005, the President requested \$200 million for UASI Targeted Infrastructure Protection Grants to protect critical facilities, including transportation infrastructure. Both the House and Senate rejected this request, and instead appropriated UASI funds for rail and transit security.